Decaying Mahabodhi tree

3781. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news that appeared in media regarding Mahabodhi tree facing pest threat; and

(b) the curative measures Government propose to take to prevent further deterioration of tree?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DHJP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and(b) Yes. Sir The following measures have been taken to protect the tree from the attack of pest and decay :

(i) Removal of loose bark from the main trunk of the Bodhi Tree through sharp sickle/kharpi.

(ii) Application of Boardeaux mixture (1 : 1 : 10) on the trunk and the branches through brush.

(iii) Fortnightly spraying of the mixture of Vapone (1 millilitre/Utre of water) and Sandovit (1/2 millilitre/litre of water) for pest control and Multiplex to supplement the nutrients.

(iv) Removal of weeds from the adjacent lawns situated on the western side of the Bodhi Tree.

(v) The pulverization of the soil of the lawn with the help of spade and application of 2 kg. of Potassium Sulphate, 5kg. of Single Superphosphate and 30 kg. of Neem cake.

(vi) Gradual pruning of excess growth of branches on annual basis in the presence of a Horticulture Expert and painting of the cut portion with Bordeaux paste.

(vii) Providing sufficient irrigation through pits dug in the lawns adjacent to the Bodhi Tree.

(viii) Regular monitoring through the Bodh Gaya Temple Management Committee under the Chairmanship of the District Magistrate, Gaya.

Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection

3782. PROF.M.SANKARALINGAM:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: